

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Thursday, September 7. 1710.

IN my Last I gave you a View of the Royal Line of our *English* Monarchs, with its several Intersections and breakings off, whereby it evidently appears, that the *English* Crown by Ancient Charter, Entail'd upon the Royal Family, is, like the Crown of *Israel*, special to the Family, but not to this or that particular Branch exclusive; but that as in *Judab*, according to Mr. *Asgill*, every Branch of the Tribe was capable of Succeeding to the Crown, tho' the Eldest Branches, or the Eldest Sons of that Branch, were not extinct; so in *England*, every Branch of the Royal Family is capable of Succeeding to

the Crown, tho' an Elder Branch, or an Elder Son of the same Branch, should be yet alive.

Again, as God himself by the Hand of his special Messengers, the Prophets, or otherwise as he thought fit, declar'd the Choice, and determin'd who in such Cases should Succeed, in Obedience to which Declaration, these were accepted, and those rejected by the People.— So in *England*, by the Constitution of these Kingdoms, the Parliament have reserv'd to them, the Right of Limiting the Remainders of the Crown, and of declaring any Incapacities or disabling Circumstances, of Persons or Branches

Branches to the Succession—In Obedience to which Declaration, these are accepted or those rejected by the People.

Upon this Foot, *and no doubt Legally*, the Crown of England passing by King James had he been alive—Or his Son, supposing the Pretender were Legitimate, *which however I do not grant, neither is it a Farthing matter to this Case, whether he be Legitimate, or no*, Descended to her present Majesty, the Parliament having declar'd the Incapacity of the other Branches, and upon this Foot, the Crown passing by the Houses of Savoy, Orleans, Conde, &c. Descends after her Majesty, *and in default of Heirs*, to the Protestant Branch of Hannover, the Popish Branch of Hannover, now in the House of Modena, being also Elder, and living—And this is the true Descent of the English Crown, by Virtue of which, her Majesty now Reigns.

Now, Gentlemen, if you will have this call'd Hereditary, *you shall*; for my part, I will never promote a Difference upon Words, that has nothing in it to differ upon—I am ready to grant, and hereby own her Majesty's Title to be Hereditary—And believe all honest Men, will thus far Recognize her Majesty's Hereditary Right to the Crown, upon all Occasions—And that there may hereafter, be no more Disputes among us about the Word, I shall sum it up all in short, and tell you what it is, and what it is not we mean by *Hereditary Right*.

Hereditary Right, as it signifies the Descent of the Crown, to such and such Branches of the Royal Blood, to whom the Parliament of Britain shall declare the Inheritance, *this we own*.

But if by Hereditary Right, you mean a Claim by direct Lineal Descent to the next Eldest Branch exclusive, Superior to all Parliamentary Limitation—This we disown—Nor is it in the Power of Man, to make out her Majesty's Claim, or the Protestant Succession of the House of Hannover, upon that Foundation.

To make it still more plain—If you grant by Hereditary Right, that the Crown Descending to any Branch of the Royal Family, to whom the same is Limited by Parliament, is *Hereditary*, then there is no Question but the Queen's Majesty has an Hereditary Right to the Crown.

But if you will have Hereditary Right, to signify the Right of Primogeniture, or what we call the Descent in a Right Line only, then we cannot grant the Word Hereditary, to the Settlement of the Crown—And this I once Stated into Questions, *vide Review N....* which indeed I foresaw would obtain no Answer, nor indeed can all the Clan of Hereditary-Right Men in this Nation, Answer them, otherwise than by the Scheme here laid down, which Scheme I Summ up, by Way of *Alternative*, thus.

The Queen's Title to the Crown of this Kingdom, being a Descent to her Majesty as a Branch of the Royal Blood, and that Descent declar'd special to her Majesty by Parliamentary Limitation, is Hereditary.

The Queen's Title to the Crown of this Kingdom, being not by Descent in a Right Line, her Majesty's Father being alive when that Settlement was made; but being declar'd by Parliamentary Limitation, is therefore Parliamentary.

The Queen's Title to the Crown of this Kingdom, being then by a Legal Descent Limited by, and Declar'd in Parliament—Is, and ought to be Acknowledg'd by all her Majesty's Subjects, to be PARLIAMENTARILY HEREDITARY.

And thus, I hope, I have Stated the Dispute about *Hereditary Right*.

I come next in Course, to Debate a little that great Point, and about which such a mighty Stir is lately made, I mean the Doctrine of *Non-Resistance*; and indeed, in Examining this thoroughly, we shall find as much *Non-Entry* and Inconsistency, as in the

the other ; since I make no doubt but to prove, and that to all your Satisfaction, That the Doctrine of Resistance and of Non-Resistance, as they are really, and *Bona fide*

understood, and practis'd by either Side, have no Specifick Difference, but really signifie the same Thing ; but of this in our next.

MISCELLANEA.

WHO can refrain taking Notice here, of the Wonders of Providence attending us, in the unexpected Success of the Confederate Arms in *Spain*? — One would think, Judging of things by the usual Course of Heaven's Dealings with Mankind, that so much Success should not attend a Nation, so already Surfeited with Glory, and so Inveterately and Implacably Divided amongst themselves.

The War in *Spain*, has been the Labouring Oar to us all along — It has been carried on at a vast Expence, almost Insupportable, and under a Series of Misfortunes ; the Enemy in the beginning of the Year, appear'd Superior to us there, got into the Field before us, Invested *Balaguer*, offer'd us Battle even at Disadvantage, and hardly refrain'd Attacking us in our Entrenchments ; their Superiority in Horse was unquestion'd, and their Cavalry, till now, had the Reputation of very good Troops ; but from the first Attempt made upon them, they never behav'd like Men, and have upon every Occasion turn'd their Backs, tho' Attack'd with the Odds on their Side of three to one.

At *Almanara*, 16 Squadrons beat two and forty ; at *Sarragossa*, 28 Squadrons drove 65 Squadrons out of the Field ; and this little Army of Count *Staremberg*, which at most, is not suppos'd to exceed 28000 Men, is now in a fair Way to drive King *Philip* out of the Field.

When *Julius Caesar* was push'd a little, in his first Skirmish with *Pompey*, and forc'd to Retreat a few Days, before the great Battle of *Pharsalia*, he said to his Officers, That he had been lost, if the Enemy had known how to Conquer — If Count

Staremberg knows how to Conquer, *Spain* is lost.

A Letter which I have seen from *Paris* of these Things, says thus — “ The
“ Battle is decisive, the King's Army
“ is lost, and his Kingdom too, if
“ the Enemy pursue their Advantage
“ — The whole Kingdom is in
“ Confusion, and Succours at too
“ great a distance to come in Time.
“ The King lost the Battle, by the Treason
“ of the *Wallons*, and the ill-behaviour
“ of the *Castilian Cavalry*.”

And what can we not reasonably expect from such a Victory? — For my part, I cannot doubt but General *Staremberg* will make all possible Advantages of the present Consternation — I grant, *Spain* is a vast large Body, and so small an Army as he has there, cannot immediately take a Kingdom of 300 Mile Square — But 'tis a General Revolt that I am in expectation of ; the Country has been long under the Usurpation of the *French*, and now they an Opportunity of expressing their Aversion to *French* Government, which hitherto they have had no Room to do ; Now have a Victorious Army to stand by them, the Terror of the Usurpation is taken off, and one would think the *Spaniards* cannot be so stupid as not to take hold of the Occasion ; indeed if they miss of it now, if they do not now declare themselves, *Poss est occasio Calva*, they ought to receive no Pity, if they sink under the Weight of the Yoke when it returns.

I make no doubt, but the *French* will do their utmost to retrieve the Blow, and their Troops

Troops are marching in great Bodies from several Parts, for that purpose, viz. Monsieur De Montrevell is Marching from Bourdeaux with all the Forces he can get together, in Gascoigne and French Navarre, which however by the Accounts I have seen, will not make above six Thousand; the Duke of Berwick Marches from Provence, Thanks to the Duke of S—y, with about 18 Battalions and 12 Squadrons, who is to be join'd in his March, by the Duke de Roquelair with 6000 Men, say the French, from the Side of Toulon, which is now out of fear of the German Army, and all these are to join the Duke de Noailles, who has about 8000 Men in Roussillon; and thus the French give out they will immediately enter Catalognia with near 30000 Men.

But all these are Remote, and a General Revolt in Spain, will put it past hope; if they will Invade it, they must, but they will have all the Work to Fight over again, and may find it as difficult now, as the Confederates did before.

And now for a Peace, Gentlemen—Now the King of France can have no more to say, the 37th Article is in a fair Way to be determin'd, and the impossibility they pretended we exacted of him, will be Remov'd to his Hand; now we shall ask him for no Equivalent—If Spain be our own, we may venture to hope the War will be near an End; of which hereafter.

ADVERTISEMENT S.

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